

# THE GRAY FALCON

BY M. T. CALDOR

INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER XVI.—(CONTINUED.)

Emile, without a moment's hesitation stood up in a cart, and began a furious harangue, somewhat after the fashion of his old club addresses. Inwardly he was stricken with remorse, remembering that those old appeals had lost their power. He had claimed equality, the power of rising by worth of character, the right to be men, the haughty refusal to bend the neck of slaves; but now the wild heart of lawlessness asked for nothing but revenge and triumph, blood and crime. His words were eloquent, and he took care to refrain from appeals to their brutality, but he dwelt adroitly on the watch-cry, "Equality, liberty," and all around applauded heartily as he descended.

"You are just the man we want!" cried M. Pierre, coming forward with outstretched hands.

Emile could scarcely control his shudder of disgust, but he shook hands heartily and answered with the most apparent delight:

"I am ready for the work. The whole people must come forward—and behold! France is free! Might you be the loyal worker for the people my comrade has been speaking of—are you citizen Pierre?"

"The very one; and I am proud to meet the Gray Falcon." Arm in arm M. Pierre and Emile walked into a restaurant for breakfast. "I'm on the scent of a nice brace of aristocrats," said the former confidentially, as he disposed of one huge morsel after another; "they escaped when the chateau was burnt in the most infernally mysterious way, but I shall have them yet. I shall expect much help from your sagacity. You people in Paris must have got well trained by this time. How go affairs?"

"Prosperously; there is not the slightest doubt Louis will be beheaded, and the Austrian wife will follow. There is one danger. We may get the tide so strong it may sweep some of its helpers away, too. The Mountain Party and the Jacobins are fighting each other. I promised to start the flame here, but you seem to have it well performed, and I see not but I can speedily return. Why can't you go back with me, citizen Pierre?"

"Willingly, brave Falcon, if I have caught my birds, but otherwise I must stick to this spot. I know they are still about the place and I must watch my nets."

"You seem to have great interest in succeeding?"

"To be sure. I have double motives—gain and revenge. I haven't told you there is a girl in the case, have I, that gives extra zest to the adventure?"

Emile swallowed his disgust and ire as best he might, and with some trivial excuse, left M. Pierre to finish his breakfast. It seemed to him he should stifle if he breathed the same air with the villain any longer.

He found himself the object of awe and reverence. One who had passed through so many Parisian tragedies, and whose reputation as a revolutionary orator was so widespread, might well draw the attention of all.

It was a sore trial for him to speak now. The terrible perversion of his former efforts made his heart heavy under similar attempts. He had seen for himself what revolution meant, and he was almost ready to accept the old evils patiently, in lieu of the maddest convulsion, whatever purification might eventually come from it.

But he had set his task before him, and Emile had all his life been used to self-sacrifice and self-struggling. He was not the man to blanch or falter.

He became the lion of Frejus, and M. Pierre was almost ready to be jealous of his popularity.

The days wore on from a week to a month, and still Emile found himself hampered on all sides, and bound hand and foot by the press of circumstances.

His heart sickened as he thought of the long delay, the torture of watching and waiting in that underground retreat. He was nearly frantic with alarm as he heard M. Pierre confidently broaching the plan of hunting for caves or burrows in the forest, declaring he would dig it all over before he gave up his search.

And still no plan for their escape had occurred to him. His very popularity increased the difficulty; he had no privileges, every movement he made was noted; he gave out notice that he was sent for to Paris, and made ostensible preparations for departure.

That very day came M. Pierre, jubilant and sanguine.

"Wait a little, Falcon, and I can go with you, after I catch my prey."

"You have remarkable faith, citizen, to hold so firmly to the belief that the Little Forest contains fugitives. I confess I should have given it up long ago."

"Oh, no, not if your faculties were sharpened with the thirst for revenge. At last I am rewarded. The watchers last night detected a man stealing toward the spring of water in the center of the forest. One caught him fairly, but he wrestled with him, escaped and in the same strange way vanished. It has happened twice before. They are foxes. I give them due credit, but I shall discover their burrow yet. I have sent for tools, and I'll dig over the whole ground and cut down every tree, but I will unearth them."

"Success to you, citizen," answered Emile, but he longed to leap upon him and throttle the exultant villain.

Left alone, Emile sat a long time with his head drooping in his hands. Something must be done, and that

right speedily. He sprang up at length with a brightened face, and began examining his pistols.

After that he went out to find his coadjutor.

CHAPTER XVII.

LEFT alone, the day after Emile's departure to the town, the young people were rather gloomy, but each endeavored to cheer the other.

"I know what an insignificant protector I must seem to you in comparison with Monsieur Emile, dear Chlotilde," said Jules; "but, indeed, he is a paragon. And now that my strength has returned, and something of my own spirits, I assure you I shall be of better service than you imagine."

"Nay, dear Jules, I have all possible confidence in you, and so has my uncle. He told me about your generous and heroic interference for the poor old priest in Paris. I have been sad because I could not throw off the depression the lack of his cheerful encouragement was likely enough to induce, and I have been haunted with a fear of some danger befalling him. He is so thoroughly acquainted with the forest, and so accurately informed of the revolutionary movements, his loss to us would be certain destruction."

"It would indeed be irreparable. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and admiration for him. What a wonderful man he is! No king could seem half so grand to me."

"And you know not the half. I only wonder that he has ever been one of the revolutionists."

"Nay, that is the least of my wonderment. With his talents, his varied information, his heroic nature and great heart, I cannot blame him for rising up against the oppression, for the laws of France were horribly grinding upon the under classes; and that such as he should be insulted and down trodden by a titled ignoramus would indeed be shameful."

"Yet I am sure he is troubled and remorseful for the part he has taken."

"Yes, his sensitive nature is shocked by the bloody issue of events. Had such heroic, magnanimous natures as his held entire control, we should have seen quite another form of revolution. There is General Lafayette, I know that he believed in the overthrow of the throne, and the establishment of a republic, similar to that of his favorite United States. He is woefully made aware that he who touched the straw with fire cannot hope to control the flame."

"And your sympathies, Jules, you have not told me which way they turn?" asked the girl.

"Indeed, both ways, I may say. I do not blame the people for declaring in favor of equality. I cannot bear to see the nobility massacred. At present because of this last sentiment I am hunted down like a wolf, and grievously hated by the people's party. I suppose therefore I might be called an aristocrat."

"You do not seem like one of the people," observed Felicie, thoughtfully.

"I may reiterate the remark concerning you, Chlotilde. I never saw duchess or marchioness more thoroughly aristocratic in appearance."

She blushed and answered hastily:

"My associates have all been nobly born people."

"I should know it. It is the same with your uncle. It all goes to prove the much vaunted aristocracy of blood is all moonshine. Educate one of the common people into the refinements of wealth, and they are far nobler than nobility, take them at their best."

Felicie recalled some similar remark of her mother's and a sorrowful expression came over her face, and she sat a long time in silence, her head drooping on her arm.

Jules, perceiving it, hastened to find an interesting book, and read aloud. After which he playfully proposed he should serve her to a lunch, and to divert her mind, assumed the manners of an Arab host, and actually brought a merry meal to her lips by his quaint language, as he brought forward some figs and dates from the generous store Emile had taken from the chateau.

So passed the time, each endeavoring to add to the other's cheerfulness and divert the approach of melancholy. Every evening they went up to the higher room, carefully examined the vicinity, and then in utter silence stepped out to breathe the delicious freshness of the outer air. But as the days wore on into weeks, apprehension and anxiety seized either mind, though each endeavored to conceal it from the other.

They still practiced their little innocent arts for diversion and entertainment, but the blank smile, the absent look, revealed that their cheerfulness was all pretense.

They discovered, too, the watch in the forest had been more closely enforced, for Jules had taken Emile's place in the upper room and several times heard the conversation of the men.

He came down one night and found Felicie weeping bitterly.

"Dear, dear Chlotilde, take heart, I beseech you," cried he; "do not despair; all will yet be well."

She tried vainly to repress her grief, and then burst forth piteously.

"Emile is gone; they have killed him! my noble, generous friend is lost."

Oh, I am all alone—all alone in this cruel, pitiless world!"

Jules knelt down before her, and drew the drooping head to his breast.

"Chlotilde, dearest, that is ungenerous. Here is one who is ready to sacrifice everything, even life itself, for your defense. You force from me the secret I meant to declare to your uncle before I breathed it in your ear—that I love you, dearest one, with a love purer and truer and more fervent than I had dared to hope should brighten my desolated life; that I would choose you, though I were a king in the land, before the proudest lady, the most royal princess—you, a peerless daughter of the people."

The startled girl had drawn away her hands from her tearful face—her soft smile was like a rainbow in a summer.

"Is it possible, Jules?" stammered she.

"Ah, you are angry, you are vexed, you have no love in response," said Jules, in a troubled voice.

She had drawn herself away as if startled by her own discoveries; her face was half averted, her beautiful eyes downcast, a rich rose slowly flushed her cheeks.

"I am astonished, I am perplexed, but angry, ah, no, indeed, Jules. I am rather grateful."

"But you have no love for me in return; alas! why should I have ventured to hope so?"

She turned her face toward him slowly. What a sweet hope lighted up the lovely features!

"I am cruel to withhold the truth. I will not be untrue in generosity. What I could not say to a marquis I can answer to you, Jules, I do love you; yet, you must forget that I have said it until we see Emile, or learn that something has befallen him."

Jules was kissing her hand in the extravagance of delight.

"Now is the world a paradise, though I am a hunted refugee, and know not how many hours of security are left to me."

Felicie ran away to her little retreat as soon as possible, and sat down there in a perfect bewilderment of mingling emotions.

Half horrified at herself for being capable of this feeling of joy, quite frightened at the words she had spoken, it was long ere a feeling of peace and serenity returned to her.

Then it almost seemed her mother's spirit returned to her and breathed upon her a saintly benediction, as in approval of her course.

It is true she scarcely dared to think of her father; she shuddered as she put aside the thought of his anger and horror of the betrothal of a Languedoc to the humble Jules, a representative of the class the count had looked down upon with such aristocratic scorn.

But her mother had been her guide and oracle in life; it was not likely her sentiments should be held less sacred now that death had made her memory saintly.

This little love episode gave new interest and life to their flagging spirits. But as the fourth week crept on, the pair began to distrust sorrowfully the likelihood of Emile's death, or imprisonment.

Jules grew grave and careworn, feeling the responsibility resting upon him acutely; and his fair companion though she sedulously avoided any expression of despair, showed plainly by her paling cheek and heavy eye the anxiety which oppressed her.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## An Apple Problem.

Once upon a time there were two old men who sat in the market early every morning and sold apples. Each one had thirty apples, and one of the old men sold two for a cent, and the other old man sold three for a cent.

In that way the first old man got fifteen cents for his basket of apples, while the second old man received ten cents; so that together they made twenty-five cents each day. But one day the old apple-man who sold three for a cent was too sick to go to the market, and he asked his neighbor to take his apples and sell them for him. This the other old man very kindly consented to do, and when he got to the market with the two baskets of apples, he said to himself: "I will put all the apples into one basket, for it will be easier than picking them out of two baskets." So he put the sixty apples into one basket, and he said to himself: "Now, if I sell two apples for one cent, and my old friend sells three for one cent, that is the same thing as selling five apples for two cents. Therefore I will sell five apples for two cents."

When he had sold the sixty apples he found he had only twenty-four cents, which was right; because there are twelve fives in sixty, and twelve twos are twenty-four. But if the other old man had been there, and each one had sold his apples separately, they would have received twenty-five cents. Now, how is that explained?—St. Nicholas.

## The Tooth-Brush Plant.

One of the most curious plants in the world is what is called the tooth-brush plant of Jamaica. It is a species of creeper, and has nothing particularly striking in appearance. By cutting pieces of it to a suitable length, and fraying the ends, the natives convert it into a tooth-brush; and a tooth-powder to accompany the use of the brush is also prepared by pulverizing the dried stems.

## Woodcock Eggs in Sweden.

Owing to the inhabitants of Sweden being very partial to the eggs of the woodcock it is more than probable that the breed will be greatly diminished, if not at last totally exterminated. The eggs of the above species are to be seen for sale in large numbers in the various markets in Stockholm.

In six months wheat will shrink in bulk two quarts to the bushel, or six per cent. It follows that 94 cents a bushel in August, just after wheat is threshed, is equal to \$1 in the following February.

Mixed assemblages of men and women are forbidden by the social code of China, and under no circumstances must a Chinese husband and wife appear together in public. It would ruin a man's reputation to be seen riding in the same carriage with his wife.

A sheriff to whom the letter of the law was as good as the spirit attached three sticks of kindling wood, the property of some residents of Putney, Vt. who were sued on a contract alleged not to have been fulfilled.

## Groan If You Must.

But also appeal to a means of relief of the torture—if physical—which produces the groan. Rheumatism is a prolific source of agony in its acute inflammatory or chronic forms. But it may be annihilated at its birth with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which, unlike the poisons in minute doses often prescribed for it, is perfectly safe. In malarial, kidney, bilious, dyspeptic or nervous ailments the Bitters is a certain source of relief.

Every prudent young man in Chicago, when he takes a lady to a theatre, carries \$3 in his inside pocket. This is to pay her fine in case she refuses to remove her high hat.

## A Big Grass Seed Order.

John A. Salzer Seed Co., LaCrosse, Wis., the largest grass, clover and farm seed growers in America, recently received an order for twenty-five thousand pounds different kinds of clover, ten thousand pounds Salzer's Superior Timothy seed and ten thousand pounds of different kinds of grasses from a large Montana stock raiser. Salzer's seeds grow and produce and it pays to sow them.

In three years the progeny of a pair of rats, under favorable conditions will number 1,000.

GET STRENGTH AND APPETITE. Use Dr. Hart's Iron Tonic. Your druggist will refund money if not satisfactory.

A snowdrift near Dodge City, Kan., delayed a railroad train for ten hours. The passengers could get nothing to eat but oysters and eggs, which they found in abundance in the express car.

## Coe's Cough Balsam

Is the oldest and best. It will break up a cold quicker than anything else. It is always reliable. Try it.

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25 cents a bottle.

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For 14 years this shoe, by merit alone, has displaced all competitors. Indorsed by over 1,000,000 wearers as the best in style, fit and durability of any shoe ever offered at \$3.00.

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One dealer in a town given exclusive sale and advertised in local paper on receipt of reasonable order. Write for catalogue to W. L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass.

## \$200.00 Reward in Gold!

Well Worth Trying For.

In the word BEAUTIFUL are nine letters. You are smart enough to make fourteen words, we feel sure, and if you do you will receive a reward. Do not use a letter more times than it occurs in the word BEAUTIFUL. Use only English words. The Household Publishing and Printing Co., proprietors of THE HOUSEHOLD COMPANION, will pay \$200.00 in gold to the person able to make the longest list of English words from the letters in the word BEAUTIFUL. \$200.00 for the second longest; \$20.00 for the third; \$10.00 for the fourth; \$5.00 for the fifth; \$2.50 for the sixth; \$1.25 for the seventh; \$0.62 for the eighth; and \$0.31 for the ninth. The above rewards are given free, and solely for the purpose of attracting attention to our handsome ladies' magazine, THE HOUSEHOLD COMPANION, containing forty-eight pages finely illustrated, Latest Fashions, articles on Floriculture, Cycling, Cookery, General Household Hints, etc., and stories by the best standard authors; published monthly, price 10 cents per year, making it the lowest-priced magazine in America. In order to enter the contest it is necessary for you to send with your list of words FIVE PENCE (about stamps or 5 cents in silver, which will entitle you to a half-year's subscription to THE HOUSEHOLD COMPANION. In addition to the above prizes we will give to everyone sending a list of fourteen or more words a handsome silver souvenir spoon. Lists should be sent as soon as possible, and not later than April 24, 1901, so that the names of successful contestants may be published in the April issue of THE HOUSEHOLD COMPANION. We refer you to any mercantile agency as to our standing.

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It is announced that bill will be presented in the legislature at an early day for the erection and organization of a separate hospital for the confinement and treatment of the criminal insane of the state of Pennsylvania.

The Alabama Legislature has passed an anti-trust law identical with the Georgia law. It renders void all contracts made with a view to lessen free competition in the sale, importation or manufacture of articles of domestic growth or of raw material.

It is suggested in England to honor Queen Victoria's completion of the longest reign in English history by establishing 'n every community some garden or park or playground.

When bilious or constive, eat a Cascaret candy cathartic, cure guaranteed, 10c, 25c.

One point in the devil's favor is that theaters are generally better ventilated than churches.

NO-TO-BAC FOR FIFTY CENTS. Over 404,000 cures. Why not let No-To-Bac regulate or remove your desire for tobacco. Saves money, makes health and manhood. Cure guaranteed, 50c and \$1.00, all druggists.

One difference between a fool and a wise man is, that the fool talks most when he has least to say.

MAKE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS BY SAVING PASTURE. For particulars write JOHN T. MILLIKEN & CO., St. Louis, Mo.

Montevideo's population is 244,342.

The Christian's idea of prosperity is not something that can be measured by the state of his flour barrel.

You can tell a child that fire will burn, but it can not understand what you mean until it finds out for itself.

C. A. Maywood, South Carolina terrapin inspector, reports that terrapin have been increased tenfold in the waters of that state by protective measures, although the law has been imperfectly administered, owing to the lack of sufficient means. When the law was passed the terrapin were in eminent danger of extermination.

Many a church member is content with being a nickel-in-the-slot machine who might be an electric motor.

The Japanese make underclothing from paper.

When you're doubled up with pain and feel like you'd snap in two, you have

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## THE ASTROLOGER'S CORNER.

Some slight changes necessitated saving less space for this department. Prof. Cunningham, is daily receiving flattering testimonials of his genius and marvelous power in reading the language of the signs and planets. His horoscope life readings with charts are daily convincing people of the great and VALUABLE INFORMATION and his fame has extended into foreign lands.

Under no circumstances will names of correspondents be published, but the following are extracts from recent letters: "I received my horoscope, am much pleased with it. It is as near right as is possible to make it." Another writes: "I am surprised at its correctness."

Prof. Cunningham now proposes to tell your ruling planet and send a test reading ABSOLUTELY FREE to the applicants whose letters happen to be the First, Third, Fifth and Twelfth opened from each day's mail. All applicants for these FREE READINGS must send: age, race or nationality, place, year, month, day, hour and minute of birth. A. M. or P. M., as near as possible. Applicants entitled to FREE READINGS will receive them by return mail with their 25 cent refund. Less 2 cents postage. Applicants must send 10 cents to pay for their reading in case they do not win FREE reading. (DO NOT DELAY), send at once. You are just as apt to win as anybody, and if you do not, you will receive a valuable test by astrology for the small sum of 25 cents. Those not knowing their time of birth should send 1 cent for further instructions. Three rules apply to all applications. No more applications for readings to be published will be received. There are more than 100 letters that have been published, owing to changes, that are likely to occur at any time, so all who have applied for readings to be published should enclose 25 cents in stamps and cash. Part in the above contest. About 100 letters have been returned to me "unclaimed." All who gave religious names had better correct the error at once. Wonderful Horoscope Readings with Charts at from 60c to \$5.00. These completions will be in accordance with amount of money sent. I will not be responsible for money sent in a letter. Send money order or stamps. Address:

# PROF. G. W. CUNNINGHAM,

Dept. 4, 194 S. Clinton Street, Chicago, Ill.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Miss E. E., Ottawa, Kansas. According to the data the sign Sagittarius, which Jupiter rules, was rising at your birth, therefore Jupiter is your ruling planet or signifier. The Moon and Mercury are on the ascendant and must be considered as co-signifiers. You are above medium height; good form; medium complexion; hair and eyes, the complexion is very clear and healthy; you are very active and energetic; generally cheerful, happy, jovial, kind and obliging; you are very fond of culture and of a fine driving horse; you are somewhat inclined to speculation; in a general way you are far more fortunate than the average and you will always be able to command more or less money, however you need some special advice about finances.

Miss Marie, Grand Rapids, Wisc. According to the data the sign Cancer, which the Moon rules, was rising at your birth, therefore the Moon is your ruling planet or signifier. Venus and Mercury are on the ascendant and must be considered as co-signifiers. You are medium height, or slightly above; plump form; medium to dark hair and eyes; the eyes have peculiar sparkle and sharp sight; the complexion clear; you are more active in your actions than the Cancer people usually are, as denoted by Mercury. You are quite cheerful and often have a strong desire to change your business or location, or both; you are fond of parties, dances, amusements, etc.; you are very popular with the gentlemen and marriage will be average fortunate for you.